

FRED UPTON

6TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 10, 2018

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Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

I write to express my support of the proposal "*Development of an Integrated Framework for PFAS Plume Characterization, Monitoring and Forensics: Airborne and Conventional Geophysical Methods, Phytosampling, and Transport Modeling*" developed by Drs. Dogan and Reeves from Western Michigan University and Dr. Hyndman from Michigan State University.

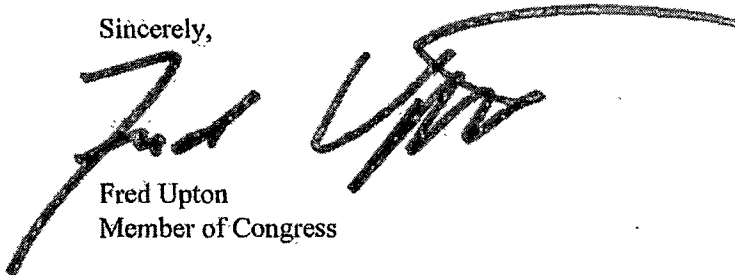
The research outlined in this proposal will be used to develop an integrated methodology to generate data on the distribution of PFAS in vegetation, unsaturated and saturated zones, subsurface geology and heterogeneity, characterization of PFAS source releases, and predictions of PFAS migration.

These data are critical for improving our current understanding of PFAS fate and transport and will enhance assessments of PFAS risks to human health. The field locations selected for study are among the highest profile PFAS contaminated sites in Michigan, and this research is intended to alleviate some of the major data and knowledge gaps for these sites.

PFAS contamination has been an ongoing problem in my district, gaining national attention with the incident in Parchment, Michigan last July as well as revelations of levels thousands of times the EPA-recommended limit found at the Battle Creek National Guard Base. The research being done at Western Michigan University and Michigan State University is vital to our understanding of understanding of plumes of contaminants and how they affect residents around them.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let my office know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Fred Upton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Upton:

Thank you for your October 10, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the proposal, *Development of an Integrated Framework for PFAS Plume Characterization, Monitoring and Forensics: Airborne and Conventional Geophysical Methods, Phytosampling, and Transport Modeling*, developed by Drs. Doogan and Reeves from Western Michigan University and Dr. Hyndman from Michigan State University. The EPA has received this proposal, which was submitted as part of a Request for Applications (RFA) in EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program.

STAR was created in 1995 and is EPA's primary competitive, peer-reviewed extramural grants program. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than 7,600 research grants throughout the nation. STAR stimulates and supports scientific and engineering research that advances the EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. It also provides access to the nation's best scientists and engineers in academic and other nonprofit research institutions.

All applications received in response to this STAR RFA will go through a rigorous review process including both an external peer review from a panel consisting of external, independent scientific experts in the field of study, and an internal review involving program experts from the EPA. This review process is designed to evaluate each application according to its relevancy to the EPA mission and scientific merit. Following this competition process, we anticipate announcing the selected recipients.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Thea Williams in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at williams.thea@epa.gov or (202) 564-2064.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta", is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Ph.D.
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science